

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, IS
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS - EARLY WARNING - GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL'S
TEN YEAR WATER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

REF: (A) 77 TEL AVIV 3525; (B) 77 TEL AVIV 3902

1. ON JUNE 25, 1978, THE GOI APPROVED A TEN-YEAR WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BASED ON TREATED SEWAGE WATER. THE PROJECT WILL COST IL 10 BILLION (\$566 MILLION) AND HOPEFULLY WILL BE PARTLY FINANCED BY THE WORLD BANK.

2. WATER COMMISSIONER MEIR BEN MEIR STATED THAT IN ORDER TO KEEP PACE WITH ISRAEL'S PROJECTED GROWTH, AN ADDITIONAL 400 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF WATER PER YEAR WILL HAVE TO BE AVAILABLE BY 1990. THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO 33 PERCENT OF THE WATER NOW BEING CONSUMED IN AGRICULTURE. ACCORDING TO BEN MEIR, ISRAEL NEEDS TO DEVELOP NEW SOURCES OF WATER BECAUSE APPROXIMATELY 95 PERCENT OF ISRAEL'S EXISTING WATER RESOURCES ARE ALREADY BEING USED.

3. AT PRESENT, ISRAEL MAKES ONLY MARGINAL USE OF RECLAIMED OR RECYCLED SEWAGE WATER. IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY 1990 SEWAGE RECLAMATION WILL PROVIDE SOME 300 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF WATER, ABOUT 15 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S TOTAL WATER NEEDS. NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS HAVE TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT RISHON-LE-ZION FOR THE DAN
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REGION AND TEL AVIV AND ITS SURROUNDING AREA (REFTEL A), AS WELL AS IN JERUSALEM, HAIFA AND OTHER PARTS OF ISRAEL. THE NORTHERN NEGEV, WHICH WILL REQUIRE WATER BOTH FOR INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS, WILL BE ONE OF THE MAIN BENEFICIARIES OF THE RECYCLED DAN REGION SEWAGE. THE ARAVA, SOUTH OF NEGEV, WHERE AN ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE EXISTS, WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH WATER BY TAPPING UNDERGROUND SOURCES.

4. THE OVERALL WATER PROJECT PLANNING AND DESIGNING WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY TAHAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS LTD., A GOI-OWNED COMPANY, P.O.B. 11170, TEL AVIV. THE PROJECT INCLUDES ENGINEERING STUDIES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF TREATMENT PLANTS, PUMPING STATIONS, RESERVOIRS ETC. THE WATER COMMISSIONER AND TAHAL OFFICIALS CONTACTED SAID THAT DETAILS OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PROJECT ARE STILL BEING PREPARED. AN INTERNATIONAL TENDER WILL BE ISSUED, ALTHOUGH NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SPECIFIED. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROMISED COPIES OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS AS SOON AS THEY ARE READY. THE EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING UP CLOSELY WITH TAHAL OFFICIALS AND WILL ADVISE.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT U.S. CHANCES FOR PARTICIPATING IN EQUIPMENT SALES FOR THIS PROJECT ARE GOOD IN VIEW OF OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF WATER SEWAGE TREATMENT.
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